

Consumer Services

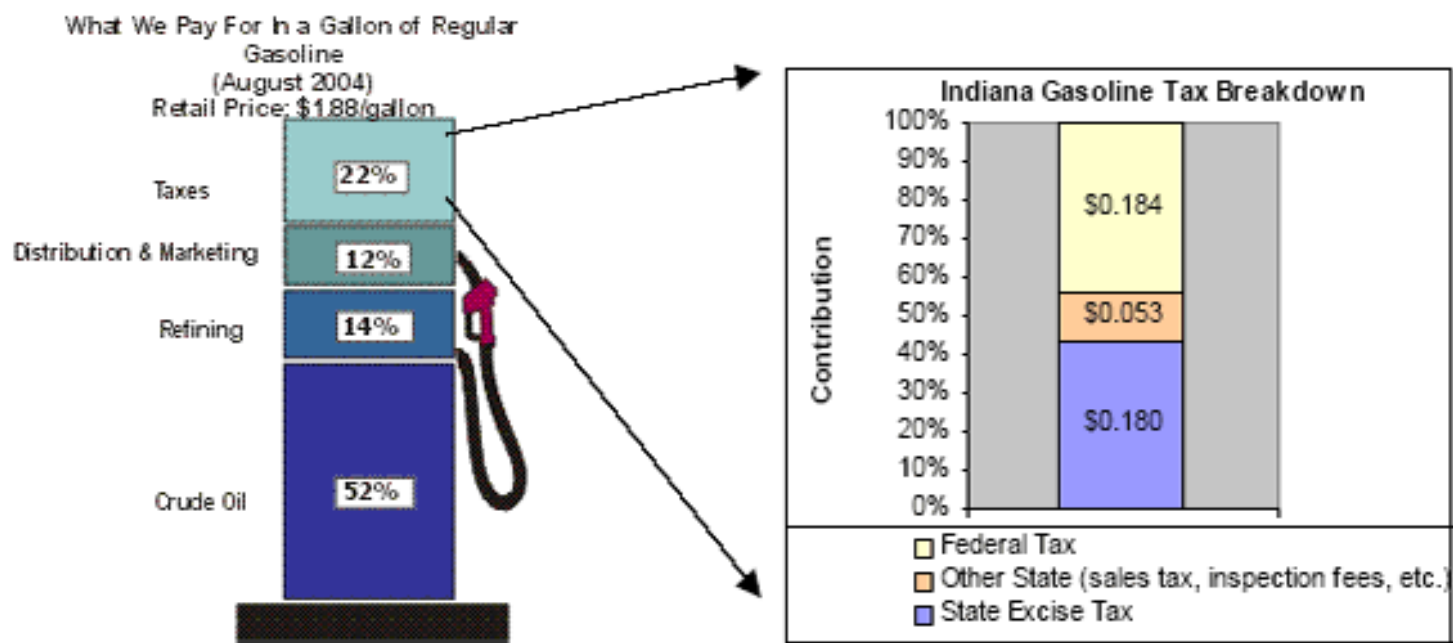
[Gasoline Education Home](#) | [Gasoline Savings Calculator](#)

Gasoline Education Website

The Following Information Is Designed to Answer the Questions....

- [What factors establish the retail price of gasoline?](#)
- [How much petroleum does the U.S. import?](#)
- [From where does the U.S. import petroleum?](#)
- [What is the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries \(OPEC\) and what does it do?](#)
- [Which nations comprise OPEC?](#)
- [When, on average, is the best time of the week to purchase gasoline in Indiana?](#)
- [What are ways to drive more efficiently?](#)
- [What motivation is there to time gasoline purchases and to drive more efficiently?](#)
- [How do I report incidents of gasoline price gouging?](#)

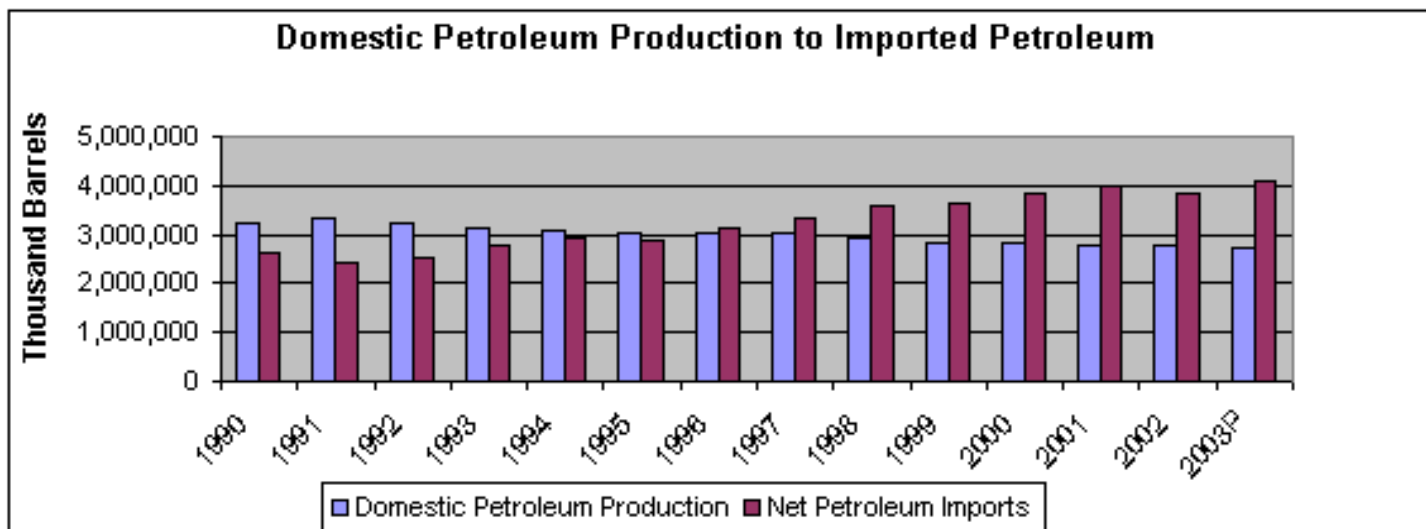
1) What Factors Establish The Retail Price Of Gasoline?



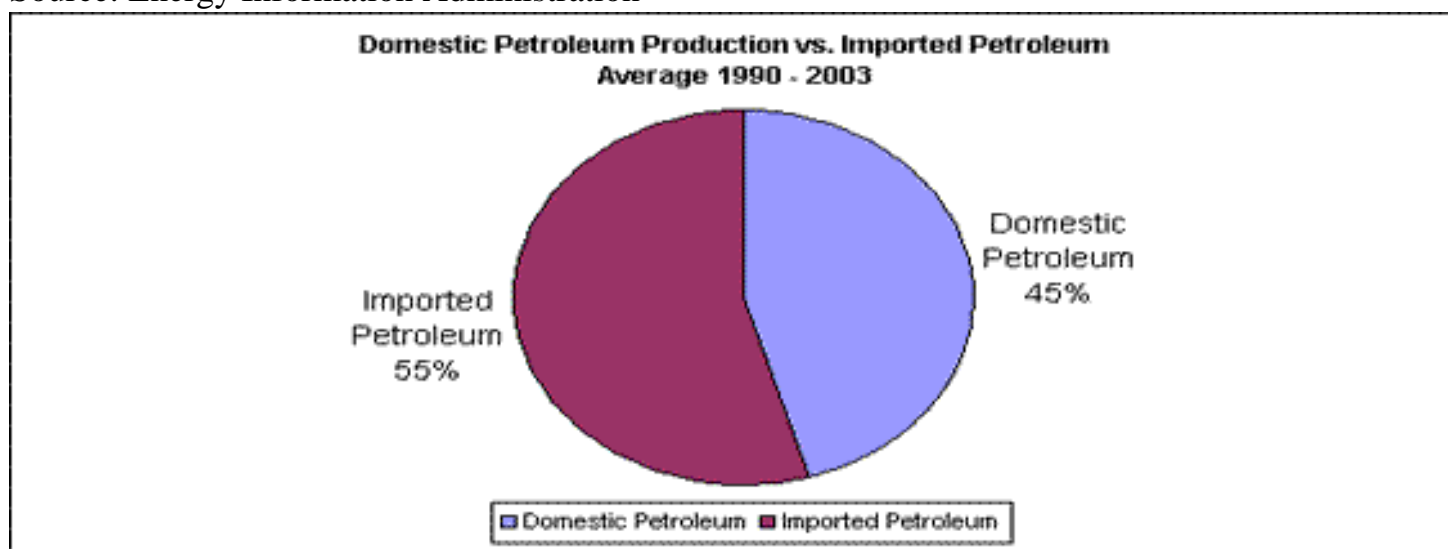
Source: Energy Information Administration
Source: American Petroleum Institute

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2) How Much Petroleum Does The U.S. Import?



Source: Energy Information Administration

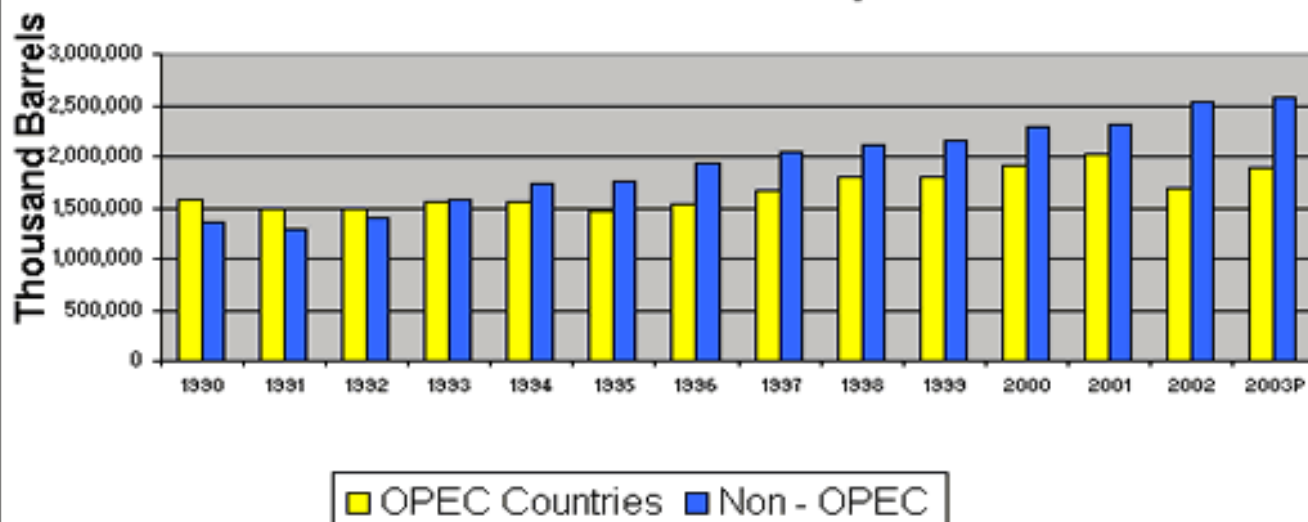


Source: Energy Information Administration

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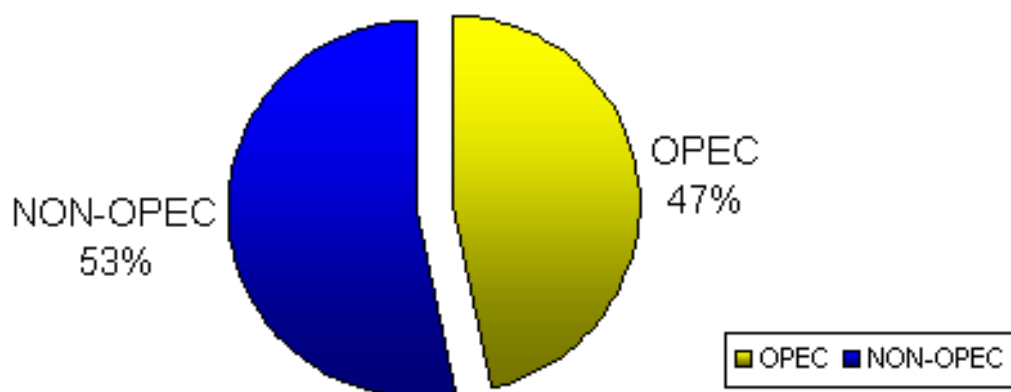
3) From Where Does The U.S. Import Petroleum?

Domestic Petroleum Import 1990 - 2003

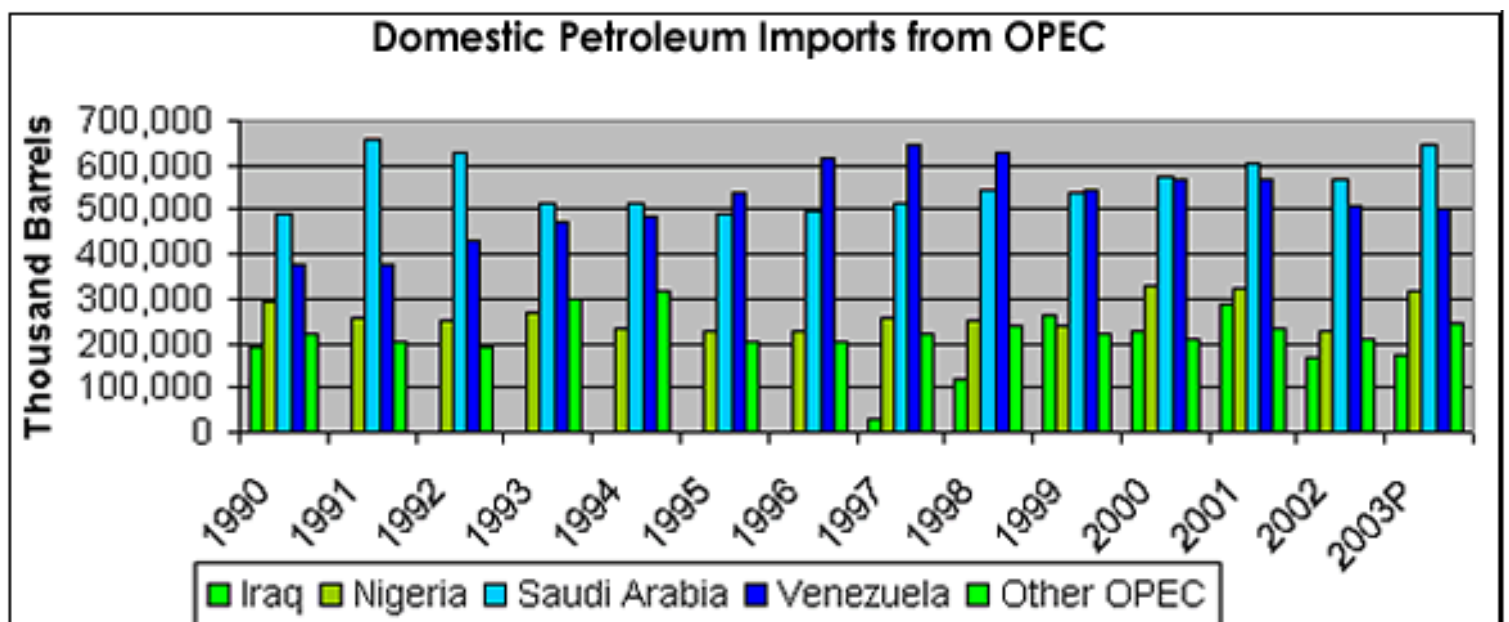


Source: Energy Information Administration

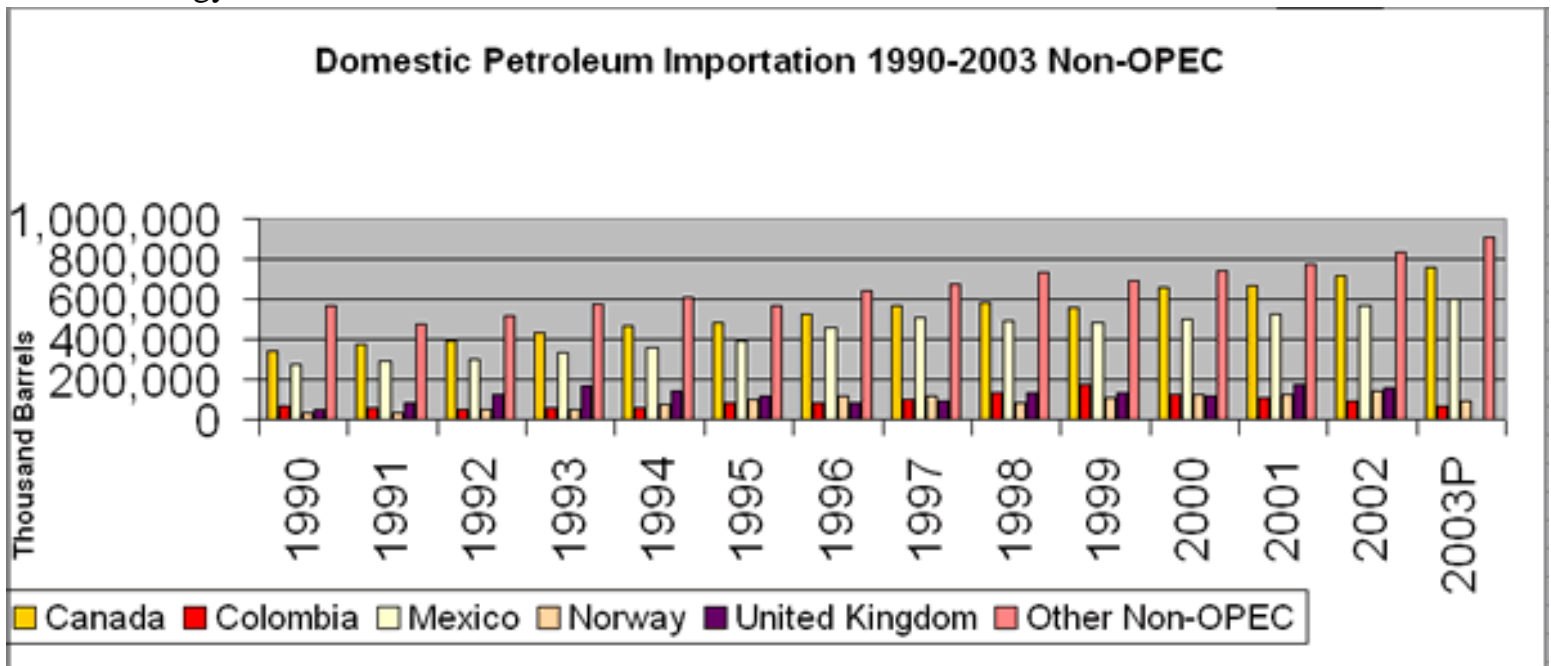
Percentage of OPEC Petroleum Importation Average 1990 - 2003



Source: Energy Information Administration



Source: Energy Information Administration



Source: Energy Information Administration

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4) What Is The Organization Of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) And What Does It Do?

Crude Oil, a leading component and the leading variable price of gasoline, is a commodity. Crude Oil differs from other commodities as it is subject to the restrictions of a cartel. OPEC (the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) operates as a quantity controlling mechanism for crude oil. OPEC is comprised of 11 member countries. According to OPEC each country is in a developing stage and relies on oil production for their economy.* Therefore OPEC's stated mission is to achieve stable oil prices that are fair to consumers and producers.*

* www.opec.org (opens in new window)

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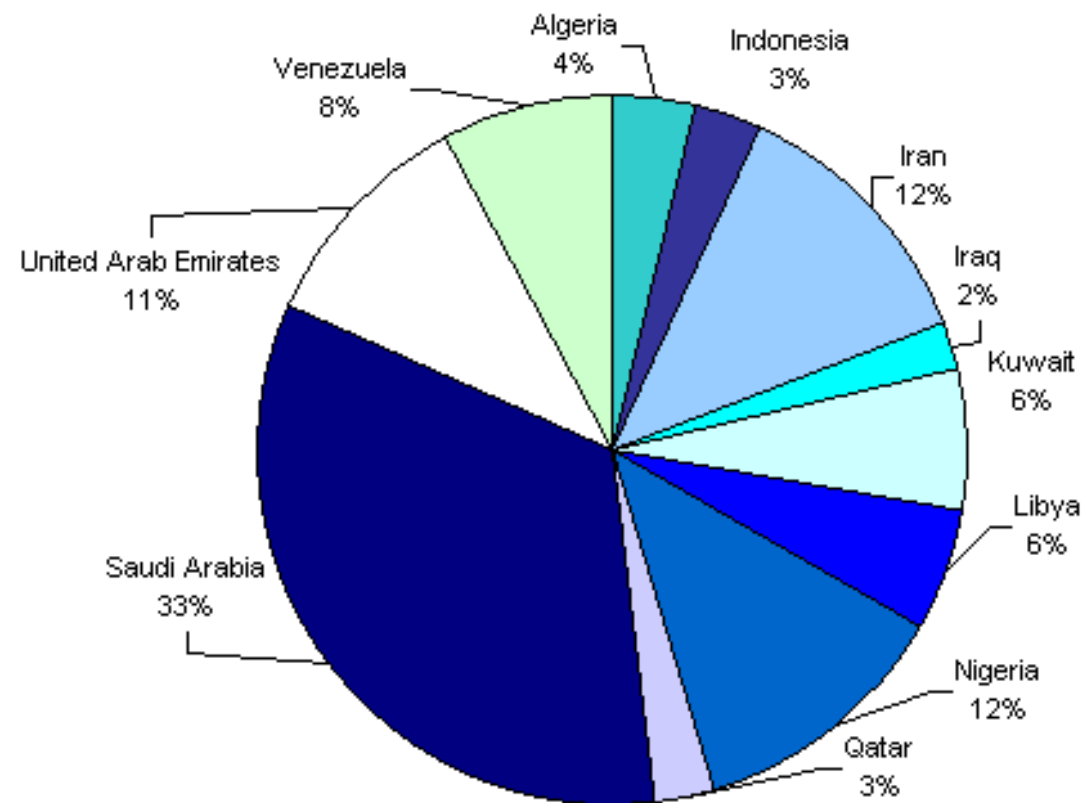
5) What Nations Comprise OPEC?

The eleven nations that comprise OPEC are....

Algeria	Indonesia	Iran	Iraq
Kuwait	Libya	Nigeria	Qatar
Saudi Arabia	United Arab Emirates	Venezuela	

www.opec.org (opens in new window)

**OPEC Nation's Contribution to 194,627,000 B/Day
exporting**



Figures based on 4/27/04 data from OPEC.org (opens in new window)

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6) When, On Average, Is The Best Time Of The Week To Purchase Gasoline In Indiana?

Indiana Regular Gas Price Statistics from 2003

The least expensive gas in the state is in Evansville.*

The least Expensive time to purchase gas in the state is Wednesday night into Thursday Morning**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	City Ave.
Terre Haute	\$1.499	\$1.429	\$1.456	\$1.424	\$1.426	\$1.426	\$1.499	\$1.45
South Bend	\$1.527	\$1.456	\$1.486	\$1.452	\$1.455	\$1.457	\$1.527	\$1.48
Indianapolis	\$1.519	\$1.450	\$1.478	\$1.446	\$1.446	\$1.445	\$1.516	\$1.47
Gary	\$1.545	\$1.472	\$1.506	\$1.472	\$1.473	\$1.474	\$1.544	\$1.50
Fort Wayne	\$1.554	\$1.487	\$1.516	\$1.481	\$1.480	\$1.481	\$1.551	\$1.51
Evansville	\$1.464	\$1.402	\$1.432	\$1.399	\$1.398	\$1.398	\$1.466	\$1.42
Bloomington	\$1.540	\$1.471	\$1.501	\$1.464	\$1.462	\$1.465	\$1.536	\$1.49
STATE AVE.	\$1.52	\$1.45	\$1.48	\$1.45	\$1.45	\$1.45	\$1.52	\$1.47

* Why is Evansville the Cheapest?

Five major factors effect the fluctuation of retail gasoline prices: proximity of supply, supply distribution, competition in local market, environmental programs, and operating costs.

Evansville is located on major shipping and trucking routes, thus providing incentive for competition and logistic benefits comparatively to central Indiana. Evansville's location is also advantageous as refineries are within close proximity. This helps maintain lower distribution and operating costs. Environmental programs seemingly have no effect on Evansville as it is subject to the same State and National restrictions as other Indiana cities.

** Why Purchase Wednesday Night if Thursday is the Cheapest?

Our source for retail gasoline price information is www.AAA.com.

www.AAA.com's methodology is to take the weighted average of the last credit card swiped for retail gasoline for the previous night. Thus, Wednesday's gasoline is likely to drop throughout the day, and Thursday's prices are likely to rise throughout the day. Consumers looking for the best time to purchase gasoline, on average, should fill their tanks late Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning.

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7) What Are Ways To Drive More Efficiently?



Drive Sensibly

Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline. It can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town. Sensible driving is also safer for you and others, so you may save more than gasoline money.

Fuel Economy Benefit: 5-33%

Equivalent Gasoline Savings: \$0.07-\$0.49/gallon

Observe the Speed Limit

Gasoline mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.10 per gallon for gasoline. Observing the speed limit is also safer.

Fuel Economy Benefit: 7-23%

Equivalent Gasoline Savings: \$0.10-\$0.34/gallon



Avoid Excessive Idling

Idling gets 0 miles per gallon. Cars with larger engines typically waste more gasoline at idle than do cars with smaller engines.

Use Cruise Control

Using cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save gasoline.

Use Overdrive Gears

When you use overdrive gearing, your car's engine speed goes down. This saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

Keep Your Engine Properly Tuned

Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4.1 percent, though results vary based on the kind of repair and how well it is done. If your car has a faulty oxygen sensor, your gas mileage may improve as much as 40 percent.

Fuel Economy Benefit: 4-40%

Equivalent Gasoline Savings: \$0.06-\$0.60/gallon

Check & Replace Air Filters Regularly

Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent. Your car's air filter keeps impurities from damaging the inside of your engine. Not only will replacing a dirty air filter save gas, it will protect your engine.

Fuel Economy Benefit: up to 10%

Equivalent Gasoline Savings: up to \$0.15/gallon

Keep Tires Properly Inflated

You can improve your gas mileage by around 3.3 percent by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure. Underinflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4 percent for every 1 psi drop in pressure of all four tires. Properly inflated tires are safer and last longer.

RECOMMENDED		
	FRONT	REAR
TIRE SIZE	P145/80R12	T105/80D13
COLD TIRE PRESSURE	32 PSI	60 PSI
AT MAX LOAD	220 KPA	420 KPA
VEHICLE CAPACITY		
MAX. LOAD (LBS)	888 (OCCUPANTS PLUS LUGGAGE)	
OCCUPANTS	FRONT 2	REAR 2
SEE OWNER'S MANUAL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		

Fuel Economy Benefit: up to 3%
Equivalent Gasoline Savings: up to \$0.05/gallon

Use the Recommended Grade of Motor Oil
You can improve your gas mileage by 1-2 percent by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. For example, using 10W-30 motor oil in an engine designed to use 5W- 30 can lower your gas mileage by 1-2 percent. Using 5W-30 in an engine designed for 5W-20 can lower your gas mileage by 1-1.5 percent. Also, look for motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol to be sure it contains friction-reducing additives.



Fuel Economy Benefit: 1-2%
Equivalent Gasoline Savings: \$0.03/gallon

source for topic #7: www.fueleconomy.gov (opens in new window)

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8) Gasoline Saving Calculator

Calculator is located in the [“Cost Calculator” page](#).

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9) Role of the Indiana Attorney General

The Indiana legislature passed a price gouging statute in 2002 addressing pricing ([I.C. 4-6-9.1](#))(opens in new

window). When the governor declares either a “State of Disaster Emergency” ([I.C. 10-14-3-12](#))(opens in new window) or a “State of Energy Emergency” ([I.C. 10-14-3-13](#))(opens in new window) the statute is triggered and allows the Attorney General to pursue price gouging allegations. Thankfully, since enacting this statute an incident of this magnitude has not occurred. The gasoline price gouging statute requires the Indiana Attorney General to consider pricing which grossly exceeds the average price at which gasoline was available for a retail market during the seven days preceding a declaration of emergency. The gasoline price gouging statute also requires that the increase in price is not attributable to reasonable market forces. The Attorney General’s Office and federal agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy continue to monitor gasoline prices. Indiana is prepared to act immediately if a disaster or energy emergency is declared.

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